Dear Clay, 4/10/98

Glad you do not have a serious heart condition. The box with the enclosed letter came when we had visitors and I was not able to get to the mail until what is close to bedtime for me. I'll resume this in the morning but I do not want to forget suggesting that you speak to your doctor abput B6,B12 and folic acid. Dave Wrone's daughter is a new doctor at Stanford and she has already been published on some of this and the VA is considering making a study on the possible benefits for those with heart and kidney problems. There is also some new information on these things for women of which I heard mention on TV while eating to the news. After I got the info. from Dave I asked my doctors and have their OK on the B6 and the folic acid. It may be that the NIH has made some kind of general statement that includes how much to take.

Sorry I do not have your letter in front of me. Left it for Lil to read while I replied to a couple that should be in the morning mail.

Several of my doctors have offered the opinion that my walking is the chief reason I'm still alive. Walked much all my life and after the circulatory blockages in my legs spent at least three hours a day walking in a nearby mall, resting to read a few pages when my legs would take no more after about a quarter of a mile. and then walked again

Now I can't do as much and was taught at Johns Hopkins to walk more slowly. If you have to, you do. But you are not at that point and if you are not on a regular walking program I urge you to consider one. It is also a fine time for thinking if you do not have to make notes.

Can't make a good estimate but I've done at least 15,000 words on the Posner desecration of the King assassination.

After Frame-Up appeared I was Ray's investigator. Did the successful investigation for the successful habeas corpus and the investigation for the evidentiary hearing at which he should have prevailed but the judge would not have survived his prevailing. Wish I'd had a file clerk then! What a mess that stuff is!

Got this far last evening when I had to stop to do what I do before retiring and then I retired, with this troubling me. As it did when I awakened the second time from the kidney problem. That was at 1:05. I could not return to sleep because this did and does trouble me so I laid there for an hour and then got up. I go into some of these things, only some, in the hope of giving you a better understanding of the realities of my life.

Well, yesterday was a bit different. Two friends who teach high schoool on the side of Ohio farthur from here drove here just to take us to lunch for our birthdays. I was just 85, in a few days Lil will be 86. Had too much lunch

and that did tire me some. Ate enough supper, a dish of icecream without fat, to be able to take a medicine that requires food in the stomach. (Fun such!)

I told you about getting up. That begins with, on washing, taking the first 7 if them, all prescribed, then eating an orange, then taking four more. I can't stand at the sink to peel the orange. I sit with my right leg horizintal and with my left left having the heel as high as the heart. I sit that way to type, to read and correct, whenever it is not impossible on doctors' orders.

In a few minutes I'll leave for my early morning walking in a grocery supermarket because I have more stability walking with a cart than with the prescribed walker and when there are only stock clerks there it is no problems for them and they have become friends. I'll have Lil's grocery list and will do her shopping at the same time. That may be just about all my day's exercise but it should not be, limited as the permitted ones are.

When I return I'll have the papers and my first breakfast of enough vegetables for the next batch of medicines that require food. Then I'll resume writing you instead of retunring to the manuscruot on which I've started on the newest Posner literary whoring.

The things that are on my mind are many that you have not yet come to and I hope you get to my age without coming to know what they are but they are very real to me and are always on my mind. Sometimes they keep other things out, I suppose. To give you a notion on the medicines alone, some of which are dangerous, they can cost $750 a month and that is not covered by medicare. One makes my skin so delicate it peels back on slight contact and and I always full of subcutaneous hemorrrhages, and two of them make me itch. If I scratch the itch I break the skin and bleed. Lil has to medicate parts of my body I can't reach twice a day. The medications that cause these problems keep me alibe, one for more than 20 years during which it has been a problem, the others since my last Johns Hopkins hospitalization when the local hospital sent me there nt expecting me to live. Or, considering the alternatives, they are cheap and great but they do remain problems.

At the store, a 5 lb sack of potatoe poorly shelved fell on my more damaged foot, which is complaining.

I reread your 3/31, which was in the bax, before I left, and this time used a highlighter to be certain not to miss some of what you said. I explained before how I sit in the livingroom and read the retyped ms. with a box on my right into which I put pages I've read and with the roughdraft on my left, end tables each side of the chair. My office was filled with filing cabinets before all these troubles beset me. So, with my right leg straight in front of my on a thick pad and my left leg to the side and on a barstool, my right leg barely

misses the edge of the desk and the left leg is not quite flush with the windowsill, the space between the desk and the outside wall is that little. My bookshelf for what I need at the desk is behind me and I have to unwind, get the feet down and turn around to get any book or the dictionary. On the far side of the desk that when I type is behind me is a file box that holds a manuscript I should have put in the cellar a year ago but nobody has been here with the time to make space for it down there. I expect someone in two weeks who will. I'll then out another file box in that space for another ms.. Next to it is the speakerphone. I can't make out a word on the usual Bell even with the hearing aids. On the other end of the desk, toward which I face when typing, is a rack for paper and a fluorescent lamp. The long edge opposite where I sit holds a desk organizer on which much is stacked, like envelopes and a place for outgoing letters, etc. This does not leave much space for any manuscript work or for any letters, especially if the letter is there when I am working on a manuscript. I go into this to explain how it is possible for me to miss part of a letter without intending to, especially if I nudge it and it falls to the floor, or a pen or a pencil does, all requiring that I unwind the legs, put them down, get what fell, and then reverse the process.

I did not ignore anything you wrote intending to, I am sure, although I also have no recollection of ignoring anything not on purpose, by accident.

The conditions under which I do what I do contribute to many problems that most people are fortunate enough not to be aware of, and I've not mentioned all, only what can have contributed to what offended you when I had no such intention. What you have done and are doing means much too much to me, is much too important for me to even thinking of offending you.

From the first sentence I highlighted it is clear, as perhaps it also is elsewhere, that there is some misunderstanding:"I was under the impression that you took the pages that I have reworked and compared them with the pages that have your correction."

The ideal way of proofreading, the way it used to be done professionally and perhaps still is, is for one person to read aloud to the other who reads what has been set in type or retyped. I do read what had been retypred, word for word prior to the corrections, with the rough draft at hand (and it is then that the use of the highlighter on the rough draft can be important and save much time). With the correctuons, I use the page on which the correction is made to call my attention to the corrected retyping I then read that. If there is a question I then read the page on which I had noted the correctuons. But my focus is on the correction made and if it seems OK I go on.

Perhaps this is as good a place as any to try to make an explanation of my reluctance to waste any time. Basically, it is because in the work I have undertkaen there is no time for me to easte and if I live longer than seems possible I'll not be able to complete what should be done. And if I do not do it I do not know anyone who will. Or will want to. Or be able to. And I do think that whatever the odds are on usefulness, it should be done. If it is not done it cannot be used. Better to have it done and not used.

These are real pressures I am under. I illustrate a bit.

I had decided that I should do an analysis/commentary ob the Epstein Inquest and Legend and had gotten both books down and read them and marked them with a highlighter for the writing. Then Wrone asked me to do the Twyman rubbish and I agreed and ordered it. Meanwhile, McKnight had asked me to do Furiati and I agreed to do that, It is ZR-Rifle. I've done that and since got a sequel I've not cracked, the book by the former head of Cuban intelligence. I did read and mark Twyman up. 800 pages! Meanwhile I was getting retyping from you and intermittently and little at a time the first epilogue to Waketh, which was finally completed, the retyping, after about a year. Also the Hersh at that point seemed more important and I did rush that. In part if was because he was getting all that attention. in part because it is so dirty, rotten a book and in part because it is one that might have some prospect of getting published. (I had an extra xerox of what I sent back to you made to give to a friend who was coming for help on a book for her to give to her agent. Not the best copy but the only way I could try was with the corrections indicated and the knowledge imparted that it is a hasty rought draft that needs editing.)

Then, while waiting to get the Hersh back from you this new Posner prostitution of our history is out and I had to get started on that. I was Ray's investigator, did a credible investigation that was tested in court and it is all, just about all, inaccessible to me in the basement! And I need that for this manuscript. I want very much to both complete that job and do as much as is possible for me to make an honest record for our history. The evidence, the real not the madeup evidence is, that Ray could not have fired that shot. I've written AG Reno at some length about this, without expectation of my offer being accepted, suggesting that as she consider what the King family has asked (and the FBI can knock down easily) she ought have me intervuewed on tape with me citing the existing proofs that have been tested in court.

I can't even find a student who wants the work to be a gofer. In the past some of those young women not only enjoted doing that and getting paid for it but also found it educational and worthwhile. But Hood is an upperclass college

and finding a student who wants to work and does work well is not easy. All those just about are there on student aid and have jobs. The rest have the money an no interest in wotking.

Are you getting the idea that, as my prof friends tell me, they know nobody who is ypung who can undertake and do what I have.

At my age in particular and with my many limitations it is even more difficult.

And I do other things. From packaging and mailing out books that are ordered to responsing to a usually heavy mail (now lighter than I can remember since Oliver Stone and ARRB) and I do respond to inquiries and requests for help. A professor of sociology and a lawyer friend will be here for a week in two weeks to research some of the professor's work. We are all three dear friends and the lawyer who will help him has already offered to help me.

Last ~~wek~~ week the writer I mentioned earlier for two days. I do try to provide the info others ask of me and if it is acessible I do.

These are real pressure and they have me hurrying as much as I think I can. Not only is the volume of the work considerable, there is the pressure that it can end for me at any unexpected moment.

You say you are human and we all makes mistakes. I do, too, as for example, on Freebie. Not that my dictionarieries would have it but simply getting access to them is a problem. The unabridged is atop a file.cabinet across the room.

Now on those footnotes, which I do recall, but not as you put them, included or excluded. I did not include them to begin with because that took time I decided I could better use in getting as much as possible on paper. I am confident that where you went to the trouble of including a complete footnote I did not remove it and I am also confident that I did not tkae the time to fill any in and that it was those that required time I could not spare that I eliminated. With a all that lies ahead, some indicated above, me as unwell as I am and 85 and with my purpose to make a record for history, nice as footnotes are they are a luxury that can take as many time as perhaos two dozen pages of manuscrupt for doing. I opt for the manuscript and the material for the footnotes is in what I have done. I am not writing this in the eppectation of publication. I am trying to leave what others can use because of its importance in our history. Those who may use this in the future can do their own footnoting and if they are authentic ~~scholars~~ Scholars they'll have no trouble with that.

Footnotes are fine and are helpful but to me not at the cost of work not getting done. The work would not exist and the information for the footnotes does.

I did not inxlude an author's note where I referred to the House assassins

committee because I was consosistent in that and did not anticipate that it might cause any problme. Besides which it is natural for me. I've been doing it for more than two decades. Similarly, when I referred consisteently to the Cuba missile crisis I did not anticipate that it could cause any porblem. I have from the first always referred to it that way and did not give it any thought, I suppose. But on both, remember my repeating severql times that it would be tetter to mark that kind of question with a highlighter on the rough draft? All of thiw kind of thing cannot be anticipated and some is not clear to those not familiar with it. So, the easier and faster way is to highlight the rough draft, as I've always asked all to please do. I do check each of those pages even though to be able to do that physically I have to staple them after they are returned to be able to handle them.

I understand that in all of this you were trying to be helpful and I do appreciate that but there was much that could not be clear to you for you to do that and it did lead to some need for changes.

You have undertaken a difficult and a very dirty job. That is durty copy. Not only is my typing worse because of these probelsms with the legs and with the machine now between the legs, on a pedestal table, when I read and correct what I write I am writing in the air, the clipboard in my left hand and the pncil in my right. Sometimes with the clipboard resting in the typewriter, from which it often slips. So I know very well it is unclean and difficult copy. I sometimes have troruble making out what correctiins I made. I have to keep a magnifying lense on my desk and where I sit in the livingroom and then can still have trouble making out what I wrote. So I know full well how much more difficult it is to one to whom the writing is strnage and that makes me appreciate it even more.

If I hve not responded to what you were seeking to ommmunicate tht is because I did not undertand it. I do try to respond to all I can. It is only for the past two years that Lil does some for me. I have responded to well over 20,000 letters over the years. I regard that as a responsibility undertaken. If I did not acknowledge reading a note it is not because I did not read it. The probability is that I was interrypted or the phone rang and I just did not get back to it.

On the Internet I think I did tell you some time ago that I can't take time for it, that if I could have had a computer here I'd not have been on it because of all the nutty stuff on it for which I could not take time. I have not been tyring to sell books, as I think I told you, because I want them to be available to those who really want them and when they run our they are gone. I have two available now in xerox copies only.

May I suggest something for you to think about? In your desire to help, and that is what you had in mind with all, including the internet, you are thinking in terms of what seems as though it can be helpful to you but not in the terms I've made clear that dominate me: to get all I can on paper as my first priority. I have knowledge others do not have. I have surprised my doctors by surviving three times when I was not expected to. I think I sent you a partial list of what I live with, what they treated me for last time I was hospitalized at Hopkins, and they did not treat me for all, for example, there is no chronic bronchitis on it, nothing about the legs. Or eyes one of which needs surgery the specialist wants not to do not. Or the ears when I have trouble hearing with hearing aids and do not hear the phone next to where I'm sitting if they are not on. So many of these things that I hope you never have to live with and remember.

You have been very, very helpful. I've been surprised that not only you are willing but that you have done so much when you have a fulltime job. I do appreciate it. It is also fine when you can add a correct and a complete footnote and that also takes time. But I hope you can understand that when it means what it does physically, having to, I use the word unwind, and I have to be so careful not to fall (I can't get up alone if I do) to get to what holds the missing information, and when I think of what else I can do with that time, I omitted the footnotes to begin with having made that decision some years ago.

To put this another way, Dave Wrone, who just retired as a Wisconsin professor of history, tells me that he knows of nobody who has done with anything in history what I have done with this. It is of that magnitude. I do not keep count of the manuscripts but they are many. I remember I have another to return to you but I have not done that for several reasons. One is not to add to your overload. Another is becausd the other two manuscripts are more important.

As this Posner one can be.

Please try to put your self in my position on it and with the attention it is getting. What Ray's current lawyer has put out, and I've read his book, the FBI can and if it has to will kick aside. Some may be true but too much is not. I did the work that led the judge more than 2o yqrs ago to, in deciding not to give Ray the trial he wanted, that guilt or innocence were not before him. Or, I exculpated Ray at the evidentiary hearing and the judge had to work his way around that, as he could and did. But I have this knolwedge that others do not

and I fear that if I do not get it on paper it will never be done. It is a real burden having knowledge others do not have, can be in any event. It creates an oblihation to which just about all else is subordinated. More, literally, than it should be. I am supposed to get up and walk around every 20 minutes or so and did it once only after I started this on returbing home, when I got up to get a drink. That way I get lost when I'M writing, too. And that can mean more because I am then unsteady when I get up. As I will now.

I've tk taken this time for several reason,s but most of all because I do appreciate very much what you have done and are doing and what it means and because you have taken offense when I did not intend to give offense. I do not want to let it wait, important as I regard the Posner work right now, because I'll be driven up to Johns Hopkins again on Mondy for the cardiovascular check on the legs (that my famjly doctor expcted me to lose 20 yars or so ago) that have been giving more trouble lately. The trip alone tires me for a day or two after it and things can then gang up for a while. And get lost. I do not want anything like that because you have been wonderful, so very helpful and I want, if I've bot made that clear, to be as clear as I can be on it. (In that connection, would you be hurt if I were to add thanks to you to those manuscripts. In some jobs that could mean hurt and I've generally omitted it to avoid that, especially with some of the sfudents. If not please insert it as you would like it.)

I am also trying to make clear what my situation is and what it means and can mean.

If I did not tell you, in the JFK case, in federal court, the DJ/FBI, whether or not they meant it, actually told that judge that I know more about that assassination and its investigations than anyone working for the FBI. In the King case, impossible as it may seem, they actually asked that judge t o designate me as their consultant, in my lawsuit against them, because they said they needed my knowlwdge. And that judge did that. Impossible but so,and then they gypped me out of the pay I was supposed to get and the judge permitted that, too.

So, I see as my primary obligation getting all I can on paper while I can as sccurately as I can with its primary purpose to be a record for history. Not pretty but accurate and there. I hope you can understand that I subordinate all else to this, inclduing in my life and as I should not, my health, as in forgettibg to get up and move as I should and in other things. I do subordinate all else to this and now I do it automatically, without thinking. I do hope ypu can come to see it as I do and why I do, can put yourself in my position as much as you can and understand why I think as I do, do as I do, and that I do, very much, appreciate what you are doing and have done abd I hope will yet do. It is importaht to me and I think will be to the country. Again thanks and best wishes, Harold